

VILLAGE NOTICE RELATED TO COVID-19 AND THE ATTENDANCE AT VILLAGE MEETINGS

The Village desires and encourages full and robust public comment and invites all residents to attend Public meetings of the Village and participate in Public Comment in accordance with applicable laws and all governing rules. The Village also acknowledges Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act which requires the Village to permit all persons the opportunity to address public officials under the rules established by the Village. Furthermore, the Open Meetings Act requires all public meetings to be open and conveniently accessible to the public for attendance.

While encouraging public comment and attendance at Village meetings, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (aka the “Coronavirus”), the Village encourages residents and meeting attendees to weigh the merits and benefits of attending these meetings against the potential for further spread of COVID-19. All attendees at Village meetings, including those conducting official business, participating in public comment, and those merely observing the Village’s civic process, are strongly encouraged to adhere to the Center for Disease Control’s (“CDC”) social distancing recommendations and the directions of the Office of the [Illinois] Governor (<https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/news-item.aspx?ReleaseID=21245>), including keeping at least 6 feet between persons when possible in an attempt to reduce person-to-person transmission. These directives apply to asymptomatic people (people showing no signs of infection) and the apparently uninfected persons exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms as well as those who have possibly interacted with an infected person or a possibly infected person. All of these persons should strongly consider the merits of his or her attending the public meeting with their own personal well-being and the well-being of others. If a possible infected party attends a Village public meeting, the minimal distance for him or her between other attendees should be increased beyond 6 feet.

The Village strongly recommends, in accordance with guidance from the Office of the [Illinois] Governor and the CDC, that residents participate in meetings via livestream instead of in-person attendance. Through this pandemic, the Village will also accept public comments via email and read them into the record at all open meetings. The Village will maintain and make available an audio recording of all meetings held through at least March 31, 2020. In order to be able to address emailed public comments, residents and commenters must submit their public comments to the Village Clerk (JZagone@villageofsteger.org) no less than one (1) hour before the meeting. For those residents participating at the meeting, the Village asks that you act prudently, in accordance with the recommendations set forth above, and with the full knowledge that persons in your proximity may be infected with the COVID-19 virus and that may put you at risk of infection. The Village will bear no legal or financial responsibility for such an infection based in part, on the warnings set forth herein.

For general information about the COVID-19 pandemic, among other resources, the Illinois Department of Public Health has a statewide COVID-19 hotline and website to answer any questions from the public or to report a suspected case: call 1-800-889-3931 or visit IDPH.illinois.gov. We recommend you review this website or call the hotline for initial research on the topic.